

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application.

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Non-Final Office Action dated March 27, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Applicant amends claims 19 and 20 to correct a minor typographical error.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bae (U.S. Patent Pub. 2002/0030769 A1, hereinafter "Bae") in view of Nishiguchi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,621,553, hereinafter "Nishiguchi"). Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bae and Nishiguchi in further view of Kim et al. (U.S. Patent 6,532,050, hereinafter "Kim '050"). Claims 4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bae and Nishiguchi in further view of Kim et al. (U.S. Patent 6,525,794, hereinafter "Kim '794"). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bae and Nishiguchi in further view of Kwak et al. (U.S. Patent 6,509,940, hereinafter "Kwak '940"). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bae and Kim '794 in further view of Kim '050. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim '050 in view of Nishiguchi, Bae, and Kim '794. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishiguchi in view of Kazlas et al. (U.S. Patent 5,919,606, hereinafter "Kazlas '606"). Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishiguchi and Kazlas '606 in further view of Tsubota et al. (U.S. Patent 5,629,787, hereinafter "Tsubota '787"). Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim '050 in view of Nishiguchi. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lim et al. (U.S. Patent 6,448,579, hereinafter

“Lim”) in view of Aoki et al. (U.S. Patent 4,723,838, hereinafter “Aoki ‘838”), Kohei et al. (JP 11-326949, hereinafter “Kohei”), Ikeda (U.S. Patent 6,172,729, hereinafter “Ikeda”), Nishiguchi and Bae. Claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rho et al. (U.S. Patent 6,243,146, hereinafter “Rho”) in view of Hoffmann et al. (U.S. Patent 4,206,471, hereinafter “Hoffmann”) and Kim et al. (U.S. Patent 6,229,516, hereinafter “Kim ‘516”). Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rho, Hoffmann and Kim ‘516 in further view of Song et al. (U.S. Patent 6,531,392, hereinafter “Song”). Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishiguchi in view of Kim ‘050, Bae, Kim ‘794, and Kwak et al. (U.S. Patent 2001/0013918 A1, hereinafter “Kwak ‘918”) in view of Saito et al. (U.S. Patent 6,304,308, hereinafter “Saito”). Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishiguchi, Kim ‘050, Bae, Kim ‘794, Kwak ‘918, and Saito in further view of Stein et al. (U.S. Patent 6,322,860, hereinafter “Stein”). Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishiguchi, Kim ‘050, Bae, Kim ‘794, Kwak ‘918, and Saito in further view of Kwak ‘940.

Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 12-14, and 18 are independent claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 1-9, 12, 13, and 18-20 on the basis that Bae is not a prior art reference. In particular, because Bae was filed on September 24, 2001, after the priority date of December 29, 2000 of the present application, it is not prior art.

In addition, Kim ‘050, Kim ‘940, Kim ‘579, Kwak ‘940, Kwak ‘918, and Lim only qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). However, all of these references were owned by LG Philips LCD, the assignee of the present application, at the time of the invention. Because these references only qualify as prior art under § 102(e) and were owned by LG Philips LCD at

the time of the invention, they are disqualified under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Therefore, claims 1-9, 12, 13, and 18-20 are allowable over the cited references at least for this reason.

Applicants amend claim 10 to explicitly recite features that were inherent in the original claims. The rejection of claims 10 and 11 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 10 and 11 are allowable over the cited references in that independent claim 10 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “wherein a passivation layer is removed in the boundary region.” None of the cited references including Nishiguchi, Kazlas, and Tsubota, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The structure of claim 10 of the present invention is different from the structures in the cited references in that those structures do not disclose “a passivation layer is removed in the boundary region”. In particular, Nishiguchi, Kazlas, and Tsubota do not discuss the presence or absence of the passivation layer in the boundary region. In fact, these references do not discuss a passivation layer at all.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 and claim 11, which depends from claim 10, are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 14-17 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Independent claim 14 is allowable over the cited references in that it recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a storage capacitor region including a capacitance electrode formed on a transparent substrate”. None of the cited references including Hoffmann, Rho, Kim ‘516 or Song, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The structure of claim 14 of the present invention is different from the structures in the cited references in that those structures do not disclose “a storage capacitor...on a transparent

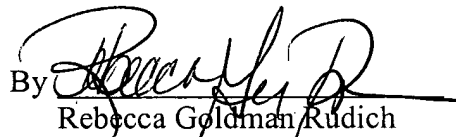
Applicants believe the foregoing amendment and arguments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE

By 
Rebecca Goldman Rudich
Registration No.: 41,786
(202) 496-7500
Attorneys for Applicants
Date: July 28, 2003